

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01670 051035Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 /094 W
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R 050856Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1281
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1670

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SA
SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

1. CHARGE ASKED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-MANSOURI ON MARCH 4 WHETHER ARAB LEAGUE
MEETING SCHEDULED FOR CAIRO ON MAARCH 27 WOULD TAKE PLACE.
MANSOURI SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD AND THAT SAUDI ARABIA
PLANNED TO ATTEND SINCE TIT IS CHAIRMAN OF THIS SESSION. IT
IS ALSO URGING ALL OF ITS FRIENDS TO GO. HOWEVER, IT EXPECTS
SIX REJECTIONIST STATES NOT TO ATTEND, SINCE MEETING IS BEING
HELD THIS TIME IN CAIRO. HE SAID THAT THERE MAY BE QUESTION
OF LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT MEETING. SAUDI ARABIA PLANS
TO SEND FOREIGN MINISTER AND IT IS URGING OTHER STTTES
TO DO LIKEWISE. ON OTHER HAND, IF OTHER ARAB STATES DO
NOT SEND THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS, SAUDI ARABIA MAY DECIDE
TO HAVE SAUDI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE CHAIR MEETING.
AN ANY EVENT, NEXT MEETING WILL BE CHAIRED BY SUDAN AND
QUESTION OF GOING TO CAIRO WILL NOT BE PROBLEM.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 01670 051035Z

2 CHARGE ASKED WHETHER ABSENCE OF SYRIA WOULD AFFECT
CONSIDERATION OF EXTENSION OF ADF IN LEBANON. MANSOURI
SAID THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT AND THAT IN
ANY EVENT SYRIA WOULD PROBABLY FAVOR EXTENSION SO AS TO
CONTINUE TO HAVE ITS PRESENCE IN LEBANON LEGALIZED. EXTEN-
SION WILL PROBABLY BE APPROVED, BUT KUWAIT WILL OPPOSE

IT AT LEAST IN BEGINNING. DURING LAST ROUND, KUWAIT PUSHED FOR ONLY THREE-MONTH EXTENSION. RESULT WAS COMPROMISE ON SIX-MONTH EXTENSION WITH REQUIREMENT FOR GOL REPORT AFTER THREE MONTHS ON PROGRESS IN REPLACING ADF WITH LEBANESE FORCES. RESULT THIS TIME WILL PROBABLY BE SIMILAR TO LAST ROUND. SAUDI DELEGATES WILL PROBABLY GO TO MEETING WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL ALLOW THEM TO AGREE TO SIX-MONTH EXTENSION. IF LEBANON WANTS EXTENSION SAUDI ARABIA WILL SUPPORT IT AND QATAR AND UAE WILL FOLLOW SAUDI LEAD.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER LEBANON HAS REQUESTED EXTENSION, MANSOURI SAID HE WAS NOT SURE. HE HAS JUST RECEIVED LEBANESE REPORT THAT WAS DUE THREE MONTHS AGO AND HAS NOT YET READ IT. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE SAID SAUDI MONETARY CONTRIBUTION TO ADF AMOUNTED TO 18 MILLION DOLLARS.

4. MANSOURI SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA HOPED THAT ADF COULD BE PHASED OUT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND SITUATION IN LEBANON NORMALIZED. HE WONDERED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE. DCM SAID THAT LEBANON WAS MOVING AS FAST AS IT COULD TO REPLACE ADF WITH LEBANESE FORCES BUT PROCESS REQUIRED TIME AND MONEY. MANSOURI SAID SAG IS ASSISTING LEBANON ECONOMICALLY BUT IS WAITING FOR POLITICAL SITUATION TO NORMALIZE BEFORE MAKING ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS.
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PAGE 03 JIDDA 01670 051035Z

WILEY

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